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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, help our lawmakers to honor Your Name. Demonstrate Your great power by filling them with Your Spirit and giving them a desire to cultivate spiritual discernment.

Lord, sustain them through the power of Your prevailing providence until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. As our Senators draw near to You, experiencing Your divine guidance, may they be motivated to follow Your precepts as they face difficult decisions.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 26, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a

Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### NOMINATION OF TODD SUNHWAE KIM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week, the Senate will consider the nomination of Todd Kim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, known as ENRD. This Division acts as our Nation's environmental law firm. It leads efforts to reduce pollution and protect our Nation's precious national resources by enforcing Federal, civil, and criminal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and hazardous waste laws. At least that is what it is designed to do.

Under the previous President, Donald Trump, ENRD took some troubling steps in the wrong direction. It prioritized protecting polluters over the environment.

With more than 1½ million acres of the United States currently burning in a wildfire season that has been greatly exacerbated by climate change, we are mindful of the critical importance of vigorous enforcement of our Nation's environmental laws.

What the Division needs now is a leader who will bring back integrity, expertise, and a renewed commitment to enforcing our Nation's environmental and natural resources law. Mr. Kim is that leader. In fact, his career in environmental law began at ENRD, where he worked as a trial attorney. During his time with the Division, he was awarded the Justice Department's Outstanding Performance Award on three separate occasions. As a trial lawyer there, he spent 8 years representing the United States zealously and apolitically under both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

Mr. Kim's principled leadership in that role has earned him praise across the ideological spectrum. He has the strong support of former ENRD officials from both parties. Over 80 environmental law experts and academics, who often don't agree on many things, all believe he is the right person. They wrote: "ENRD deserves one of the nation's best lawyers at its helm. Todd Kim promises to be just such a leader."

Mr. Kim also has experience leading a large legal department. He served as the District of Columbia's first solicitor general, a role he held for over a decade.

Additionally, Mr. Kim has received support from Asian-American organizations, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

His nomination received strong, bipartisan support on our committee. Four of my Republican colleagues—

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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